

I claim:

1. A shock-absorbing basketball goal system comprising:
  - a base;
  - a neck movably coupled to the base extending a horizontal distance from the base;
  - a backboard attached to a distal end of the neck; and
  - a shock-absorbing mechanism for absorbing substantially downward shocks to the neck by permitting movement of the neck from an original position and returning the neck to the original position.
2. The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 1, wherein the shock-absorbing mechanism includes:
  - a shock absorber coupled to the base; and
  - a cable connecting the shock absorber to the neck.
3. The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 2, wherein the shock-absorbing mechanism further includes:
  - a housing retaining the shock-absorber; and
  - a guide attached to the shock absorber and connected to the cable, the guide being movable within the housing for guiding a movable end of the shock absorber while the shock absorber expands and contracts.
4. The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 3, wherein the guide includes a slide member for translating within a channel defined by the housing.
5. The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 1, further comprising a mounting post extending between the base and the neck, the mounting post having a forward side oriented toward the backboard and an opposite rearward side, wherein the neck is movably attached to the mounting post and the shock-absorbing mechanism is attached to the rearward side.

6. The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 5, wherein the neck is pivotally attached to the mounting post.

7. The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 1, wherein the backboard is disposed a horizontal distance of 4 feet to 12 feet from the base.

8. The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 7, wherein the horizontal distance is 5 feet to 7 feet.

9. The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 7, wherein the horizontal distance is 9 feet to 11 feet.

10. The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 1, wherein the base is adapted to be permanently affixed to a horizontal playing surface.

11. The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 1, wherein the base is adapted to be fixedly attached to a roof.

12. The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 1, wherein basketball goal system is portable and the base is movable with respect to the ground.

13. The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 1, wherein the base is adapted to be generally affixed to a wall.

14. The shock-absorbing basketball goal system of claim 1, wherein the base is adapted to be removably attached to a vertical support.

15. A shock-absorbing basketball goal system comprising:  
a base;  
a mounting post attached to the base;  
a neck rotatably attached to the mounting post;

a backboard attached to a distal end of the neck and disposed a horizontal distance from the base; and

a shock-absorbing mechanism generally disposed on a rearward side of the mounting post opposite the backboard, the shock-absorbing mechanism configured for absorbing substantially downward shocks to the neck by permitting movement of the neck from an original position.

16. The basketball goal system of claim 15, wherein the shock-absorbing mechanism includes:

- a shock absorber coupled to the mounting post;
- a cable connecting the shock absorber to the neck;
- a housing retaining the shock-absorber; and
- a guide attached to the shock absorber and connected to the cable, the guide being movable within the housing for guiding a movable end of the shock absorber while the shock absorber expands and contracts.

17. The basketball goal system of claim 16, wherein the guide includes a slide member for translating within a channel of the housing.

18. The basketball goal system of claim 15, wherein the backboard is rotatably attached to the neck to provide adjustment for irregularities in the plumb of a support to which the base is attached.

19. The basketball goal system of claim 18, further comprising a rim coupled to the backboard, the rim being pivotable with the backboard about an axis for orienting the rim in a substantially horizontal position.

20. A breakaway basketball goal system comprising:  
a base;  
a mounting post attached to the base;  
a neck movably attached to the mounting post;

a backboard attached to a distal end of the neck and disposed a horizontal distance from the base of 4 feet or more; and

a shock-absorbing mechanism generally disposed on a rearward side of the mounting post opposite the backboard, the shock-absorbing mechanism comprising:

a shock absorber coupled to the base;

a cable connecting the shock absorber to the neck;

a housing retaining the shock-absorber, the housing defining a channel;

and

a slide attached to the shock absorber and connected to the cable for translating within the channel to guide a movable end of the shock absorber while the shock absorber expands and contracts.